

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's #
71-12A

USGS Quad
Hanover

Area

Form #
9

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town **Hanson**

Place

Photo roll/frame **5/0, 1, 2, 3**

Address **726 Indian Head Street**

Historic Name **Indian Head School**

Use: **Present school**

Original school

Date **1949-51/1960/1980**

Source **Whitman Hanson Regional
School District**

Style/Form **Georgian Revival**

Architect **William G. Upham**

Sketch Map

see continuation sheet

Exterior Material:

Foundation **concrete**

Wall/Trim **brick**

Roof **asphalt**

Outbuildings **none**

Major Alterations **see description**

Condition **excellent**

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

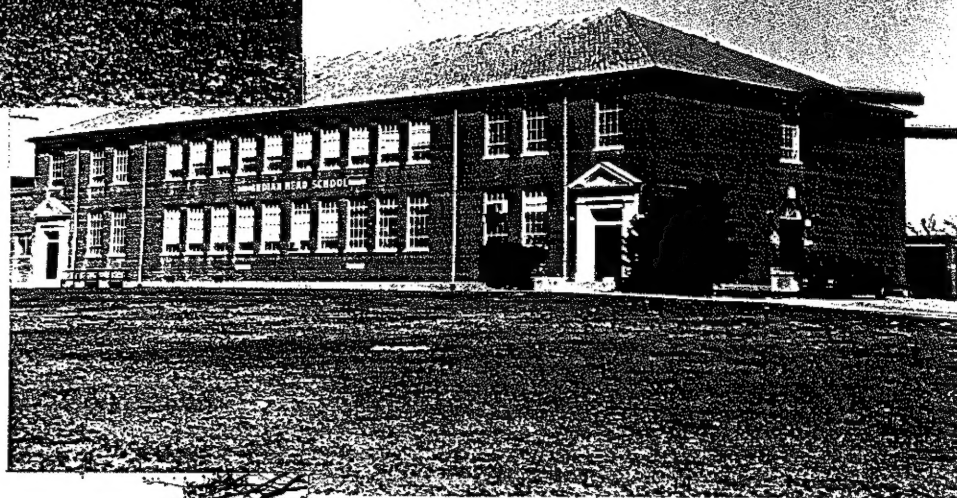
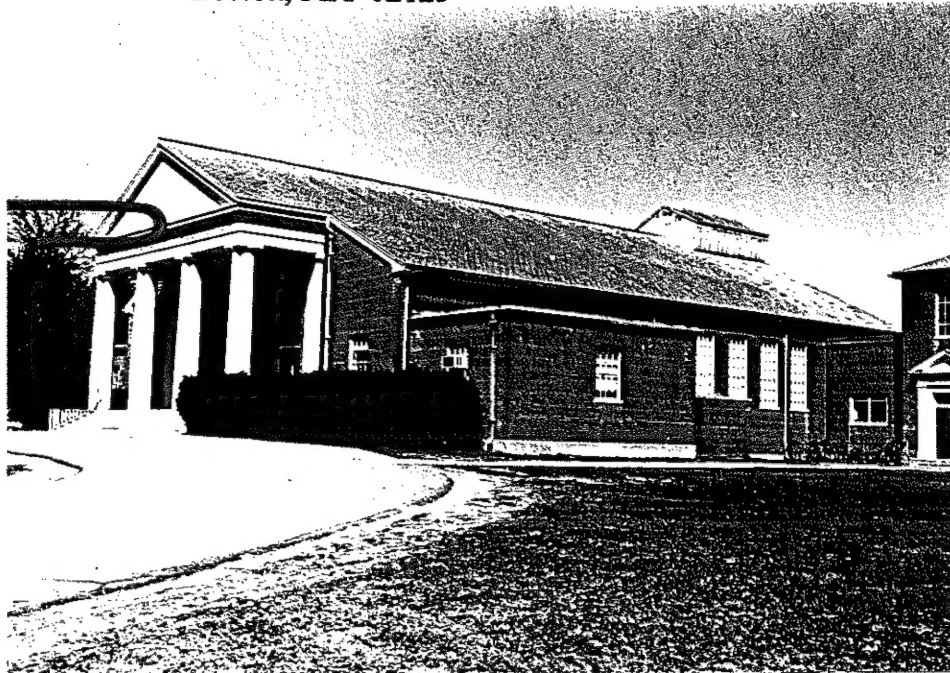
Community
Hanson

Property Address
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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Indian Head School at 726 Indian Head Street is a well-preserved, large-scale, two-story hipped block in the Georgian Revival style with an attached gabled auditorium in the Greek Revival style and two sprawling one-story additions. The original buildings include the sixteen-bay wide hipped-block and the large-scale temple-front auditorium that produce a L-shaped footprint (see map, cross-hatched section). The massing, fenestration, and ornamental detailing on these structures is all large-scale and institutional in character. The hipped-block has entries at the first and sixteenth bays leading to the original twelve classrooms and offices. The new metal doors at each entrance are ornamented with a pedimented entablature and Tuscan pilasters. Each floor had three classrooms on either side of a central corridor, plus restrooms and miscellaneous office spaces. A cafeteria was located in the area to the rear of the auditorium. The over-scaled one-and-one-half story gabled auditorium has small, one-story wings at each front corner creating a reversed cruciform plan. Classically derived ornamentation is concentrated on the auditorium's monumentally-scaled Doric temple front. The columns screen three over-scaled, symmetrically placed entries, each capped by a semi-circular lunette under an over-scaled keystone. A pair of one-story additions with a brick exteriors and large, multi-paned windows now augment the original structures, extending behind and to the left of the original masses. The 1960 addition is located to the northeast of and parallel to the original classroom building (see map, dashed line section). A second, smaller one-story addition was made in 1980 (see map, unmarked section). The school buildings starkly stand out on a large triangular lot, set-back from the street, that is largely lacking in landscaping features.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE see continuation sheet

The presence of schools in Hanson predates its 1820 incorporation, dating back to 1754. At the time of the town's incorporation five school districts were organized: Cushing, Barstow, Lowden, Cox, and Barker. Ten years later the total number had expanded to nine districts. In 1867 the district system was abolished. A three member school committee became responsible for overseeing the local schools. In 1952 the committee was expanded to five members. The Indian Head School was built in 1951 at a cost of nearly \$654, 500. A year before its construction the town had five primary school sites, none with more than four classrooms. This school considerably expanded the town's elementary classroom space probably in response to post World War II suburban growth.

REFERENCES

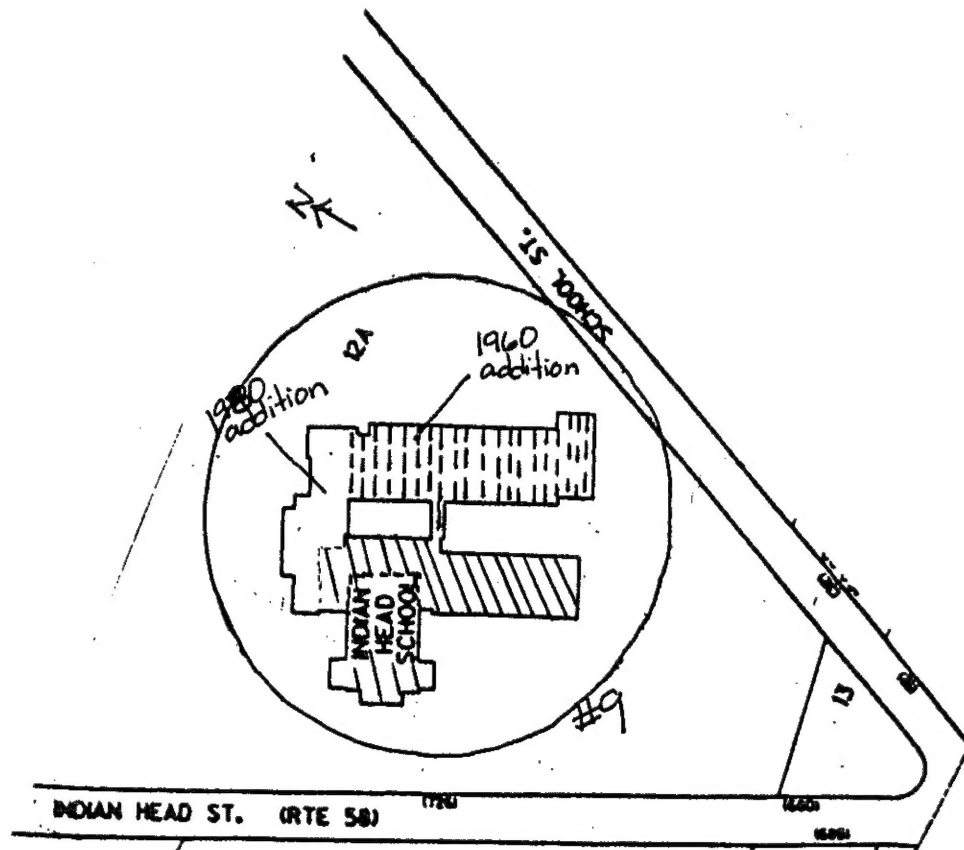
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Historical Narrative, continued.

The original classroom building and auditorium were designed by the Norwood architect William G. Upham. The plans were drawn up in 1949, ground was broken the next year and the school opened in September 1951. The 1960 addition was designed by the Boston firm Harvey & Provost. The original plans show seven classrooms plus five specialized rooms (home economics, general science, and industrial arts instruction rooms, public library and school library). The designer of the 1980 addition, which is said to include seven classrooms and four small instruction rooms, remains unknown at this time.



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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible.

☐ Eligible only in a historic district.

☐ Contributing to a potential district.

☐ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer.**

The Indian Head School at 726 Indian Head Street is a well-preserved, large-scale, two-story hipped block in the Georgian Revival style with an attached gabled auditorium in the Greek Revival style and two sprawling one-story additions. The original twelve classroom building and auditorium date to 1949-51. Additions were made in 1960 and 1980. The form and style of the original buildings were popular nationally in the mid-twentieth century. These buildings were Hanson's first large-scale grammar school suggesting the town's post-World War II suburban development. The Indian Head School meets criteria A and C at the local level. It retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.